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TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1961.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the Health of Tintwistle for 1961.

The first part consists of statistics concerning births, deaths and infectious diseases, about which I make no special comment. Also in this section is a brief account of work for the health of the district carried out under County Council administration.

The second part of the Report is presented by Mr. F. Skirrow, your Public Health Inspector, and is prepared with close attention to detail and comment, being an account of the work in environmental health which is of particular concern to your Council. I wish to thank Mr. Skirrow for his report and for his work and co-operation during the past year.

I thank members of the Council for their support for all work concerning Public Health during 1961.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. TURNER,

Medical Officer of Health  
Tintwistle R.D.C.



POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate for mid-1961 was 1,450.

BIRTHS

There were 19 live births during 1961. Of these 13 were males and 6 females. 89% were born in Maternity Homes or Hospitals compared with between 60-70% for the country as a whole.

The Crude Birth Rate was 13.1 per 1,000, compared with 17.2 per 1,000 in 1960. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the birth rate was 13.6 per 1,000 compared with 17.4 for England and Wales.

There were no Still Births.

DEATHS

The number of deaths during 1961 was 14. Of these 5 were males and 9 females. The Crude Death Rate was 9.7 per 1,000 compared with 13.2 per 1,000 for 1960. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the Death Rate was 8.8 the figure for England and Wales during 1961 being 12.0. The principal causes of death were:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cancer.....	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	1	2	3
Coronary Disease.....	2	3	5
Other Heart Disease.....	-	2	2
Bronchitis.....	-	-	-
Other Diseases.....	1	2	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>

## INFANT MORTALITY

One child died under the age of twelve months; the cause of death being Prematurity. The Infant Mortality Rate was 52.6 per 1,000 births.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred as a result of pregnancy.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following figures indicate the extent to which all types of notifiable infectious diseases occurred.

Measles.....	3
Pneumonia.....	1

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register on 31st December, was two, both of these having the disease in the lungs. During the year one case was removed from the register having made a complete recovery.

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The Clinic in Christ Church School, Tintwistle, was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. A doctor, a nurse, and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

Attendances were as under:-

<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Total Attendances</u>	<u>Average Attendances</u>	<u>Seen by Doctor</u>
18(33)	664 (644)	28 (27)	100 (133)

Figures in brackets indicate the corresponding numbers in the previous year.

As no public transport is available provision is made for cases resident in the Crowden and Woodhead area to be provided with free motor transport to attend the Clinic once per month.

A Ladies Voluntary Welfare Committee provides valuable assistance to the Doctor and Nurse in attendance by the sale of infant foods, the provision of teas to mothers, and clerical duties in connection with the Clinic. In addition to the stock of proprietary infant foods maintained by this Committee the issue of National Welfare Foods is undertaken.

One member of this Committee attends the monthly meetings of the Hyde Divisional Health Committee, thus providing a very necessary link between this voluntary body and the statutory Divisional Health Committee which in effect is a Sub-Committee of the Cheshire County Health Committee.

## NURSING SERVICES

The services of a Health Visitor who is also responsible for covering the Longdendale U.D.C. area are available. Her duties include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of 5 years, attendance at Clinic sessions and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

The care of the aged and infirm in their own homes forms an important part of her duties, and visits to cases of Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases are carried out by this Nurse.

Cases of general sickness in the home receive nursing attention from a District Nurse employed by the Cheshire County Council resident in Hollingworth.



For maternity cases a Domiciliary Midwife resident in Hollingworth covers the Council's area. Motor transport is provided for these three nurses.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Mr. F. Skirrow, Public Health Inspector to your Council, has supplied me with the following information:-

#### WATER SUPPLY

In accordance with the directions on the preparation of Annual Reports received from the Ministry of Health, the subject of Water supply is dealt with as follows:-

- 1) The water undertakers within the district are Manchester Corporation Waterworks, who have supplied details of their sample reports and of the position generally, the supply being described by their Chief Chemist as of very satisfactory quality, chemically and bacteriologically, throughout the year.
- 2) The supply is derived from the Stonebrake Reservoir. 48 samples of raw water were taken during the year, of which 28 showed counts of less than 10 B.col. per 100 mls. The water is treated with soda-ash to correct acidity (low pH) and low alkalinity of the raw water, and sterilised by the addition of chloros prior to distribution.

152 samples of distributed water were taken by the undertakers during the year, only one of which contained faecal coli. and that only 1 per 100 mls. of water.

The four samples submitted by the local authority from the mains supply were all free from coliform bacilli, while one private supply sample was reported as having a count of 1 b.coli per 100 mls.

Typical chemical analyses on both the raw water and following treatment, detailed by the Chief Chemist are satisfactory.

- 3) It is reported that as a result of the treatment given at the source on all raw water plumbo-solvency action is guarded against, a typical analysis showing the p.H. value of the treated water at 7.2 against 6.4 for the raw water.

No specific plumbo-solvency tests were carried out during the year.

- 4) The number of houses on mains supply is 541 (estimated population 1,400). There are no houses on stand-tap supply. The remaining 32 dwellings are on private supply, largely in the catchment areas and under the Control of Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department.

#### HOUSING

In these times of uncertainty as to the future independence of small authorities, it is interesting, without wishing to enter into controversy on the subject, to take a look at the Council's achievements in the provision of local authority housing.

Out of a total number of 573 dwellings in the district no less than 156 are modern Council built properties, of which 40 are bungalows suitable for Old Peoples' occupation, whilst 3 modernised cottages are also owned by the Council. The estates generally are as attractive in lay-out and appearance as any in the area, the most recently completed development of 24 old peoples' bungalows at Matthew Close being a further example of progressive policy on the part of the Council.

No further Council Houses were however, either completed or in course of erection during 1961, but consideration was given to the possibility of further development on land already in the Council's ownership.

Three bungalows were completed by private building.

The Council continued its policy of making advances for the purchase of dwellings for owner/occupiership, including older properties, through the provisions of the Housing Acts, and as always offered where requested the most generous loans possible having regard to valuation figures and other relevant factors. 10 such advances were made during the year.

As far as Standard and Improvement Grants are concerned, the Council's policy was to support these schemes for the provision of improved standards in older dwellings to the utmost. 13 applications for Standard Grants and 2 for Improvement Grants were approved, and 9 Standard Grants were completed during the year.

Reports were made to the Council on the conditions of houses at 94, 94a Old Road, and 114, 116, 118 Old Road, Tintwistle. Informal action towards private improvement of the former was approved, while in the case of 114, 116, 118, the Council resolved that action be taken towards the making of Demolition Orders.

Defects were remedied or improvements effected relating to 47 premises as a result of voluntary or informal action. Repairs were carried out at 3 houses after service of formal notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, and in one other case work was carried out by the Council in default of compliance with statutory notice under the same Act.

There are no common lodging houses or houses in multiple occupation in the district.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

With the exception of three properties the whole of the district is on the water carriage system, though a number of properties are served by septic tanks.

Improvements and repairs necessary at the existing sewage works which serves the whole of the village were referred to in last year's report.

After protracted correspondence with the County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government the Council was informed that there could be no contribution to the cost from either of these sources, and therefore after careful consideration it was decided to carry out the work in three phases; the total cost was estimated at just over £10,000.

A short length of sewer in Chapel Brow, Tintwistle, was re-laid after damage during the laying of electricity cable by the North Western Electricity Board, and work was also carried out on the septic tank and effluent drain serving Nos. 1, 3 and 2 to 14 Manchester Road, Tintwistle.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Refuse collection is by private contract, providing for weekly service in all except the outlying Crowden and Woodhead districts where fortnightly service is provided.

During the year the improvement of the system was considered and a sub-committee appointed to consider the question, with special reference to the possibility of using paper sacks. Investigations were still proceeding at the end of the year.

Tipping continued on Council land on the south side of the West Drive Council estate.

#### RODENT CONTROL

The whole of the sewer system was treated during the year, the method used being warfarin bait in stockinette bags, while continuous treatment against infestation took place at the Sewage Works and Refuse Tip. Free treatment service is provided at all private dwellings.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

No formal action was taken as to any food premises within the district, though attention was drawn to malpractices and the need for improvement as called for.

Three samples of ice-cream were submitted for examination and reported as satisfactory.

As explained in last year's report the issue and supervision of licences for special designation milks is now in control of the Food and Drugs Authority, viz. Cheshire County Council, except for producer/retailer licences which are dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Reports on samples of milk distributed in the district, taken under the re-organised system set up by the County Medical Officer of Health are made available, and these were wholly satisfactory during the year.

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

## CLEAN AIR ACT

The district is not included in the list of "Black Areas". No formal action was taken during the year.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937,1939

No action was taken re contraventions under the above. Conditions at the three outworkers notified (2 Glove Making, 1 Cloth Mending) were satisfactory.



